



Good Neighbor News

Summer 2013

A City of Carlsbad Police Department Neighborhood Watch Publication



Auto Theft is on the Rise

Push back and keep this trend from climbing.

After many years of constant decline, auto theft is on the rise.

According to the FBI, in 2012 auto theft increased 10.6 percent in the western region of the United States. This makes it all the more important to practice good auto theft prevention techniques.

Most auto thefts happen at night and most stolen cars are recovered. Yet, they might not be recovered in their original condition.

Thieves are attracted to cars that are unlocked or have windows down. Thieves look inside cars for keys, even hidden keys. Thieves are looking for cars they can steal quickly with little trouble. But, if given time and obscurity, they will even tow a car.

The risk begins the moment a car is left unattended. Cars with a greater risk of being stolen are parked in poorly lit places with low visibility, sometimes with packages inside and generally not protected by an anti-theft device.

How to protect a car from auto theft:

- Always take your car keys and never leave keys, even hidden, in a car.
- Always close windows completely and lock doors, regardless of how long you will be gone or how "safe" the neighborhood.
- Always park your car in the garage if you have one. Lock the car; take the keys; lock the garage.
- Choose well-lit areas to park--as close to your house as possible.
- Park where you can see your car.
- Use your emergency brake when you park and turn your wheels toward the curb.
- Consider an anti-theft device, especially if you park outside all night, park in large parking lots or frequent areas with many unattended cars.

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- Replace T-shaped door locks with straight locks.
- Engrave removable equipment in your car with your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).
- Immediately report crime and suspicious activity to the police department at 760-931-2197.

Let's work together to remove the opportunity for auto theft and keep this trend from climbing.



Avoid being Skimmed

Don't give a thief your identity.

Card skimming is the illegal copying of information from the magnetic strip of a credit or ATM card.

The scammers try to steal your details so they can access your accounts. Once scammers have skimmed your card, they can create a fake or "cloned" card with your details on it. The scammer is then able to run-up charges on your account.

- Inspect the ATM, gas pump, or credit card reader before using it. Be suspicious if you see anything loose, crooked, or damaged, or if you notice scratches or adhesive residue.
- When entering your PIN, block the keypad with your other hand to prevent possible hidden cameras from recording your number.
- If possible, use an ATM at an inside location (less access for criminals to install skimmers).
- Be careful of ATMs in tourist areas as they are a popular target of skimmers.
- If your card isn't returned after the transaction or after hitting "cancel," immediately contact the financial institution that issued the card.



Neighborhood Safety Tips for Parents

Keep summer safe.

School is out for the summer. It is a time of carefree fun for Carlsbad's children. Help keep summer fun and kids safe with

a few simple tips:

Know where your children are. Have your children tell you or ask permission before leaving the house and give them a time to check-in or be home. When possible, have them leave the phone number of where they will be.

Help children learn important phone numbers. Have your children practice reciting their home phone number and address, and your work and cell phone numbers. If they have trouble memorizing these, write them down on a card and have them carry it at all times. Tell your children where you will be and the best way to reach you.

Set limits on where your children can go in your neighborhood. Do you want them to crossing busy roads;

playing in alleys or are there certain homes in your neighborhood that you want your children to avoid?

Get to know your children's friends. Meet their parents before letting your children to go to their home and keep a list of their phone numbers. If you can't meet their parents, call and talk to them. Ask what your children might do at their house and if they will be supervised.

Choose a safe house in your neighborhood. Pick a neighbor's house where your children can go if they need help. Point out other places they can go for help like stores, libraries or other activity areas.

Teach children to settle arguments with words, not fists. Role-play talking out problems, walking away from fist fights, and what to do when confronted with bullies. Remind them that taunting and teasing can hurt friends and make enemies.

Work together with your neighbors. Watch out for suspicious and unusual behavior in your neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors and their children so you can look out for one another.

Crime Prevention Tip

It is getting hot out there.

When the heat rises it becomes tempting to leave our houses with the windows open. An open window creates an opportunity for crime. A thief can see from a distance how they can get into your home. It is important to secure all windows (even second story) and doors when leaving our homes, even for a short time. Don't give a thief the opportunity. For more prevention tips go to www.carlsbadca.gov/crime-prevention.

City of Carlsbad Police Department and Social Media

Taking communication to new levels.

The police department's goal is to enhance communication through the use of social media; to show the community a well-rounded and complex police department and to give the community easy access to a variety of information.

Have you looked at the police department's new Facebook page? To find it go to www.facebook.com/carlsbadpolicedepartment. You do not need to be a Facebook user to see the page.

In about two months the police department has reaching 2000 to 3000 people each week. The highest number of people reached for one post was 10,000 people!

Posts are about press releases, suspect photos, interesting crime cases and arrests, new ordinances, PR events, crime prevention and statistics, competitions, historic photos, volunteer appreciation and charitable activities.

The same goes for Twitter. To "follow" the police department on Twitter the handle is @carlsbadpolice. The department has officially "tweeted" 55 times since inception on topics such as road closures, power outages, crime cases, prevention tips and other important information.

Check it out. "Like" and "follow" if you feel inclined. The department will be watching to see what topics interest you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jodee Sasway at 760-931-2105

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Police emergency call 911

Police non-emergency call 760-931-2197

www.carlsbadca.gov/crime-prevention